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(54) Title: PEPTIDE LIGANDS OF DENDRITIC CELLS FOR NUCLEIC ACID VECTOR TARGETING

(57) Abstract: A peptide consisting of or comprising an amino acid sequence selected from a) Px¹X²X³ T [SEQ.ID.NO.:1]; b) PSX⁴S [SEQ.ID.NO.:2]; c) QX⁵X⁶X⁷Q [SEQ.ID.NO.:3]; d) SX⁸S [SEQ.ID.NO.:4], in which X¹, X² and X³, which may be the same or different, each represents an amino acid residue; X² is preferably N or L; X⁴ represents an amino acid residue, preferably N or L; X⁵ and X⁷, which may be the same or different, each represents an amino acid residue, X⁶ represents an amino acid residue having an amide side chain; and X⁸ represent an amino acid having an aliphatic side chain, which peptide binds to dendritic cells and also to other types of cells. The peptide may be used a target non-viral and viral vectors to such cells.



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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 28 April 2005 (28.04.05);
Claim 109 amended (2 pages)]

103. Use of a transfection complex or viral vector as
claimed in any one of claims 65 to 75, 79 to 81 and 83 to 96
for the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis of a
condition caused in a human or a non-human animal by a defect
and/or a deficiency in a gene, or for therapeutic or
prophylactic immunisation, or for anti-sense therapy.

104. A kit that comprises

(i) a nucleic acid,

(ii) a lipid component,

(iii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iv) a peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34,

which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1.

105. A kit that comprises

(i) a nucleic acid,

(iii) a polycationic nucleic acid-binding component, and

(iv) a peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 34,

which peptide is not subject to the proviso of claim 1.

106. A bispecific antibody that is capable of binding to a
virus and to a peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to
34.

107. A fusion protein that comprises a peptide as claimed
in any one of claims 1 to 34, which peptide is not subject to
the proviso of claim 1, and antibody that is capable of
binding to a virus.

108. A method for identifying an siRNA, which comprises
transfecting a cell that expresses a target gene with the
siRNA and quantifying expression levels.

109. A peptide having the sequence DWWHTSA [SEQ.ID.NO.:28]
or SHVKLNS [SEQ.ID.NO.:29] or QLLTGAS [SEQ.ID.NO.:30] or

TARDYRL [SEQ.ID.NO.:31] or FPRAPHH [SEQ.ID.NO.:32] or SEWLSAL
[SEQ.ID.NO.:33] or IGGIRRH [SEQ.ID.NO.:34] or YTMEFNR
[SEQ.ID.NO.:35] or MASISMK [SEQ.ID.NO.:27] or PAAYKAH
[SEQ.ID.NO.:36] .